

U.S. Application No. 10/551,542
Attorney Docket No. 27726-100554

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The beverage making machine of ~~claim 4~~ claim 9, at least one of the first and second engagers including an extending portion which is normally positioned relative to the housing for engagement with the other of the first and second engagers.

6. (original) The beverage making machine of claim 5, the extending portion being displaceable when receiving a funnel on the housing and engageable with the second engager.

7. (original) The beverage making machine as in claim 6, further comprising the first engager including the extending portion being displaceable upon movement of a funnel to position on the housing and being positively engaged with the second engager, the first engager requiring a force to be applied thereto for disengaging the first engager from the second engager.

8. (currently amended) The beverage making machine of ~~claim 4~~ claim 9, further comprising the first engager having a biased extending structure normally biased extending for engagement with a second engager, the second engager being carried on the funnel, positioning of the funnel and the corresponding second engager biasedly engaging the biased extending structure for retaining the funnel against unintended removal from the housing.

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9. (previously presented) A beverage making machine having a housing, a funnel positionable relative to the housing, and a funnel blocking device for preventing unintended disengagement of the funnel from the housing, the funnel blocking device comprising:

a first engager including a body positionable on at least one of the housing and the funnel, the body including a cavity;

a second engager positioned on the other of the housing and funnel;

a shaft carried on the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity;

a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position;

a handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member for facilitating disengagement of the shaft from the second engager; and

whereby the first and second engagers are engageable to prevent unintended removal of the funnel from the housing and selectively disengageable for removal of the funnel from the housing.

10. (previously presented) The beverage making machine as in claim 9, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a portion of the first engager, a second edge positioned proximate to the sloped edge for resisting disengagement of the portion of the first engager after engagement with the second engager.

11. -14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The blocking device of ~~claim 14~~ claim 9, at least one of the first and second engagers including an extending portion which is normally positioned when attached to a housing for engagement with the other of the first and second engagers.

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16. (original) The blocking device of claim 15, the extending portion being displaceable when receiving a funnel on the housing and engageable with the second engager.

17. (original) The blocking device of claim 16, further comprising the first engager including the extending portion being displaceable upon movement of a funnel to position on a corresponding housing and being positively engaged with the second engager, the first engager requiring a force to be applied thereto for disengaging the first engager from the second engager.

18. (currently amended) The blocking device of ~~claim 14~~ claim 9, further comprising the first engager having a biased extending structure normally biased extending for engagement with a second engager, the second engager being carried on a funnel, positioning of a funnel and the corresponding second engager biasedly engaging the biased extending structure for retaining a funnel against unintended removal from a corresponding housing.

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19. (previously presented) A blocking device for use with a beverage making machine having a housing and a funnel positionable relative to a corresponding housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the blocking device comprising:

a first engager including a body positionable on at least one of a housing and the funnel, the body including a cavity;

a second engager positioned on the other of the housing and funnel;

a shaft cooperatively associated with the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity;

a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position;

a handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member to facilitate disengagement of the shaft from the second engager; and

whereby the first and second engagers are engageable when associated with a funnel and a housing to prevent unintended removal of a funnel from a corresponding housing and selectively disengageable for removal of a funnel from a corresponding housing.

20. (previously presented) The blocking device of claim 19, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a portion of the first engager, a second edge positioned proximate to the sloped edge, for resisting disengagement of the portion of the first engager after engagement with the second engager.

21. – 32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising the step of: selectively disengaging the first and second engagers to facilitate selective removal of the funnel from the housing.

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34. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising: providing a pivot first engager in the form of a pivotable bracket; pivotably attaching the bracket to the housing in a position for engaging a portion of the funnel.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising: a slot defined on the bracket; and selectively positioning the slot in engagement with the second engager for engaging the funnel on the housing.

36. (previously presented) A method of retaining a funnel on a beverage making machine against unintentional removal, the beverage making machine having a housing with the funnel being positionable relative to the housing, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a blocking device;

providing a first engager of the blocking device including a bracket displaceably attached to the housing of the beverage making machine, the bracket having a first extension and a second extension defining a gap therebetween;

a second engager positioned on the funnel and sized and dimensioned for engagement in the gap of the first engager;

positioning the funnel in relation to the beverage making machine for engagement therewith and facilitating making a beverage;

positioning the second engager carried on the funnel in close proximity the first engager;

pushing the second engager against first extension of the first engager;

displacing the first engager against which the second engager presses to facilitate movement of the funnel into engagement with the housing; and

displaceably returning the first engager to a normally extending position with the second engager engaged in the gap of the first engager.

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37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising: providing an extending shaped portion from the first extension of the first engager for receiving a force from the funnel to displace the first engager relative to the funnel.

38. (original) The method of claim 36 further comprising: providing a biased extending portion; biasing the extending portion in a normally extended position; positioning the funnel in a location to engage the normally extending biased portion with the second engager.

39. (original) The method of claim 38 further comprising: selectively displacing the biased extending portion away from the second engager for disengaging the first engager from the second engager; and retaining the biased extending portion out of engagement with a second engager for removal of the funnel from the housing; and releasing the biased extending portion for extending engagement with a subsequent funnel.

40. (previously presented) A blocking device for use with a beverage making machine having a housing and a funnel positionable relative to the housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the blocking device comprising:

a bracket pivotably retained on the housing of the beverage making machine;

a first extension and a second extension extending from the bracket extending from the housing for interfering with movement of a funnel retained on the housing;

a second engagement portion on the funnel for cooperative engagement with the bracket;

the first and second extensions being spaced apart and defining a gap on the bracket for cooperative engagement with the second engager on the funnel to facilitate retaining the funnel on the housing against unintended disengagement from the housing and facilitating selective disengagement of the funnel from the housing.

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41. (canceled)

42. (original) The blocking device of claim 40 further comprising: a first end of the bracket being pivotable relative to the housing; a second end of the bracket providing displaceable retention of the second end on the housing for facilitating limited movement of the bracket relative to the housing.

43. (original) The blocking device of claim 42 further comprising: a slot formed in the second end of the bracket and a guide attached to the housing, the guide riding in the slot for limiting the range of movement of the bracket relative to the first end.

44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) The blocking device of claim 40, the bracket further comprising a shaped surface on the first extension being shaped for facilitating displacement of the bracket while engaging a funnel against the shaped surface.

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46. (previously presented) A blocking device for use with a beverage making machine having a housing and funnel positionable relative to the housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the blocking device comprising:

a body positionable on a housing, the body defining a cavity therein;

a shaft cooperatively associated with the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity;

a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position;

a handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member to facilitate disengagement of the shaft from a second engager carried on a funnel.

47. (original) The blocking device of claim 46, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a corresponding surface of the shaft extending from the body, a second edge positioned proximate to the sloped edge for resisting disengagement of the shaft after engagement with the second engager.

48. (original) The blocking device of claim 47 further comprising the handle being operable to displace the shaft a dimension generally equal to the corresponding dimension of the second edge to facilitate clearing the shaft when removing a funnel from the housing, the handle operating against the biasing force of the biasing member to displace the shaft.

49. (original) The blocking device of claim 47 further comprising a trigger and an associated trigger lever, the trigger and trigger lever being operatively associated with the body for displacing the shaft against the biasing member to facilitate disengagement of a funnel from a housing.